

REMARKS

Further to the response to the final Office Action of December 4, 2008, which was filed on February 4, 2009, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10, 12-14, 19, 20, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, 40-51, and 53-60 are pending, with claims 1, 19, 20, 25, 33, 34, and 58-60 being independent. Claims 58-60 have been amended. Claims 11, 15-18, 21-24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35-39, and 52 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Based on the telephone interviews, the amendments to claims 58-60 are believed to place the entire application in condition for allowance, and, thus, are believed to be proper. See MPEP § 714.12.

Applicants thank Examiner Gold for contacting the undersigned on February 19, 2009 to discuss independent claims 58-60. During the telephone call, Examiner Gold indicated that the Office had reconsidered the allowability of these claims. During subsequent telephone interviews on February 25, 2009 and February 26, 2009, Examiner Gold and the undersigned discussed amendments that would place claims 58-60 in condition for allowance. The amendments discussed during the interview are shown above. As noted in the response of February 4, 2009, the remaining claims in this application include subject matter that was deemed allowable in the final Office Action. Accordingly, Examiner Gold indicated that this case is in condition for allowance.

Applicants look forward to receiving a Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If any additional issues arise with respect to this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

No fee is believed due. Nonetheless, please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

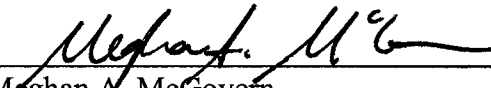
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Serial No. : 09/867,797
Filed : May 31, 2001
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Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 26, 2007



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